

Remarks

Claims 14-17 are pending in the present application. All claims are presently rejected under 35 USC §102 for anticipation and under 35 USC §103 for obviousness. The Examiner has also objected to the drawings. Claims 14, 16 and 17 have been amended. Claim 15 has been cancelled and its limitations written into amended Claim 14. New dependent Claim 18 has been added. Claim 18 depends directly from independent Claim 14.

1.) Drawings:

Replacement Sheets have been submitted for all drawings.

2.) Rejection under 35 USC §102 for Anticipation:

The Examiner has rejected "Claims 1 and 2" as being anticipated by Hadley (US Patent 4,014,449). Applicant presumes that Examiner meant that this rejection applies to Claims 14 and 15 instead of Claims 1 and 2 which were previously cancelled. Applicant will proceed with the response based on this presumption.

In response, the Applicant has cancelled Claim 15 and rewritten its limitations in independent Claim 14. Additionally, Applicant has added the limitation of a "spring" in the free tripper where the spring ensures engagement between the teeth and protuberances of the free tripper. In comparison, Hadley does not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of a spring or any other device to maintain engagement for the components of its free tripper. Consequently, the rejection for anticipation fails in view of the amended claims.

3.) Rejection under 35 USC §103 for Obviousness:

The Examiner has rejected Claims 14-17 as being obvious over Hadley in view of Dischler (US Patent 6,729,487). In response, Applicant asserts that this rejection fails due to the amendments that distinguish the claimed invention from Hadley as discussed previously in Section 2.

4.) Conclusion:

In view of the preceding remarks, all of the outstanding rejections have been overcome. A notice of allowance for all pending claims is respectfully requested. Please apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account #: 50-0954, Reference #: S2205-72132.

Respectfully Submitted,

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